

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-16, and 18-23 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 6, 13, 14, 16, and 19 are amended.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representatives by Examiner Tan at the telephone interviews held June 16 and 24, 2009 ("first interview" and "second interview," respectively), are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

In section 3 on pages 2-12, the Office Action rejects claims 1, 3-6, 8-16, and 18-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 6,237,006 to Weinberg et al. ("Weinberg"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Per Examiner Tan's helpful suggestions at the first interview, claims 1, 4, 6, 13, 14, 16, and 19 have been amended to clarify that each outside link bundle contains **direct** connections between the subject node and outside network devices, as opposed to "connections" that include intermediate nodes. This subject matter finds support in, for example, paragraphs [0025] and [0030] of the published specification.

As agreed upon at the second interview, the claims as amended differentiate over Weinberg. Even assuming *arguendo* that Weinberg discloses a map icon representing a number of **multi-hop** connections, Weinberg does not disclose any icon that represents **direct** connections between outside nodes and the node to which the icon is attached.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Weinberg fails to disclose, *inter alia*, “bundling, for each of said plurality of outside node groups, said direct connections between said subject node and said outside nodes belonging to said outside node group to create an outside link bundle” and “grouping said outside link bundles into a multiple link connector (MLC) object and associating an interactive connector icon with said MLC object,” as recited by independent claim 1, as well as similar recitations in independent claims 6, 13. Weinberg further fails to disclose, *inter alia*, “an interactive multiple link connector (MLC) icon associated to said network device, representing all outside link bundles links between said network device and all groups of outside network devices directly connected to the network device, wherein said MLC icon comprises a button for enabling display of a multiple link connector (MLC) list,” as recited by independent claim 16.

Per Examiner Tan's further suggestion during the second interview, claims 1, 6, 13, and 16 have been amended to clarify that each outside link bundle includes a number of direct connections. More specifically, an outside link bundle does not

represent a single direct connection to an outside node, but rather a **grouping** of connections to outside nodes, even if such a grouping may include only one connection. Applicant notes that the amended language is simply a restatement of language already recited in each of claims 1, 6, 13, 16 and thus has no effect on the scope of the claims. Nevertheless, in the interest of furthering prosecution, the claims have been amended according to this suggestion to clarify the claim language.

Applicant respectfully submits that Weinberg further fails to teach “displaying, responsive to selecting said interactive connector icon, a pop-up window showing a multiple link connector (MLC) list wherein each item in said MLC list represents an outside link bundle and a corresponding outside node group, the outside link bundle comprising one or more direct connections,” as recited in independent claim 1. Independent claims 6, 13, and 16 recite similar subject matter.

The cited portion of Weinberg discloses only a list of map nodes wherein each item represents a **map node** and includes a **number** of connections to that map node. In the above-quoted subject matter, on the other hand, each list item is related to the **same** subject node and represents a particular **link bundle** including one or more direct connections to outside nodes. The nodes of Weinberg cannot be construed as link bundles because the link bundles must include at least one **direct**

connection to the **subject node**. The number of connections in Weinberg could only be construed as a number of direct connections to the **map node** itself, rather than a subject node to which the map node is supposedly attached.

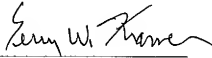
For at least the reasons discussed above, Weinberg fails to disclose all elements of independent claims 1, 6, 13, and 16. Claims 1, 6, 13, and 16 are therefore allowable over Weinberg. Claims 3-5 and 21 depend from allowable claim 1; claims 8-12 and 22 depend from allowable claim 6; claims 14, 15, and 23 depend from allowable claim 13; and claims 18-20 depend from allowable claim 16. Claims 3-5, 8-12, and 18-23 are therefore allowable based, at least, on their respective dependencies. For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3-6, 8-16, and 18-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

CONCLUSION

While we believe that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event that the fees submitted prove to be insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
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